

1. (Original) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit comprising: a gastrostomy catheter including a flexible, hollow tube reinforced with filaments, a deformable intragastric retainer positioned at the trailing end of said tube, and a tapered member positioned at the leading end of said tube for retaining the leading end portion of a guide wire inserted from the leading end hole thereof; and

an infection-preventing sheath including a flexible, hollow tubular body, and a socket member positioned at the trailing end of said tubular body for retaining said intragastric retainer, to removably sheathe said gastrostomy catheter.

2. (Original) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit comprising: a gastrostomy catheter including a flexible, hollow tube reinforced with filaments, a deformable intragastric retainer positioned at the trailing end of said tube, a tapered member positioned at the leading end of said tube for retaining the leading end portion of a guide wire inserted from the leading end hole thereof, and a housing sheath for deforming and housing said intragastric retainer; and

an infection-preventing sheath including a flexible, hollow tubular body, and a socket member positioned at the trailing end of said tubular body for retaining said intragastric retainer, to removably sheathe said gastrostomy catheter.

3. (Original) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to Claim 2, wherein said infection-preventing sheath further includes a hook member disposed near the leading end portion of its inner wall for hooking said housing sheath.

4. (Currently amended) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to Claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein said housing sheath is made of a slender, hollow, flexible tubular body.

5. (Currently amended) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to ~~any of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 4, wherein the gastrostomy catheter is provided with filaments at its thick portion.

6. (Original) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to Claim 5, wherein said filaments are disposed generally in parallel with the longitudinal direction of the thick portion of the gastrostomy catheter.

7. (Original) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to Claim 6, wherein said filaments are buried generally in parallel with the longitudinal direction of the thick portion of the gastrostomy catheter.

8. (Currently amended) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to ~~any of Claims~~ Claim 5 to 7, wherein said filaments are buried at a predetermined spacing in the circumferential direction of the thick portion of the gastrostomy catheter.

9. (Currently amended) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to ~~any of Claims~~ Claim 1 to 8, wherein said filaments are made of wires of stainless steel.

10. (Currently amended) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to ~~any of Claims~~ Claim 1 to

9, wherein the filaments have an external diameter of about 0.2 mm.

11. (Currently amended) An infection-preventing sheath gastrostomy catheter kit according to ~~any of Claims~~ Claim 1 to ~~10~~, wherein the intragastric retainer is made foldable and deformable.